



**MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr., Governor**  
**STATE OF INDIANA**

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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**INDIANA URGES MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO AID VICTIMS OF KATRINA**

**Indianapolis** – As the Gulf Coast of the United States continues to experience the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina, the Indiana Department Homeland Security (IDHS) is urging citizens interested in aiding victims to offer monetary donations only.

"There is no doubt that when disasters occur, donated goods and volunteers are needed," J. Eric Dietz, Executive Director of IDHS. "However, providing a monetary contribution to a volunteer agency directly involved in disaster relief is the most effective and efficient way to aid victims. These groups know best what needs an affected community has."

A monetary contribution to a disaster relief organization is the most effective way to aid a disaster stricken area in several ways. It empowers locals to determine their needs and make the necessary purchases. The local economy of stricken area then stands ready to benefit since purchases are local. A monetary contribution is also more efficient since it can cut down on additional costs, such as the cost of transporting goods from another state.

IDHS asks individuals interested in aiding victims to contact the Indiana Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (INVOAD) at [www.invoad.org](http://www.invoad.org) or Indiana 2-1-1 at [www.in211.org](http://www.in211.org). The INVOAD website is source of contact information for disaster relief organizations people can contact to offer a financial donation. Indiana 2-1-1 provides information on how people can best aid disaster victims.

IDHS also urges citizens interested in aiding with disaster clean up to coordinate with a disaster relief organization before traveling to a stricken area. Information on how to contact these organizations is also available through INVOAD and Indiana 2-1-1.

Interested volunteers can also contact INVOAD at 866-909-4673 and Indiana 2-1-1 at 800-259-6370. In 39 counties, Hoosiers can dial 2-1-1 directly on their phone to obtain information from Indiana 2-1-1.

"Hoosiers are known for their ability to offer a helping hand and we do not want to discourage that spirit," continued Dietz. "But, we want to educate them on how they might best direct their desire to help victims of a disaster."

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**EDITOR'S NOTE: A list of the 39 counties served by Indiana 2-1-1 is attached.**

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**Indiana 2-1-1 and its eight centers provide 2-1-1 access to residents of the following Indiana counties:**

- Adams
- Allen
- Bartholomew
- Benton
- Boone
- Brown
- Clay
- Dearborn
- Decatur
- DeKalb
- Hamilton
- Hancock
- Hendricks
- Howard
- Huntington
- Jefferson
- Johnson
- Kosciusko
- Lagrange
- Marion
- Morgan
- Noble
- Ohio
- Parke
- Ripley
- Scott
- Shelby
- Spencer
- Steuben
- Sullivan
- Switzerland
- Tippecanoe
- Vanderburgh
- Vermillion
- Vigo
- Warrick
- Wells
- White
- Whitley